

## Tony's Ride

### Answer Key

#### Instructions

Compare your answers to the answers and ideas listed in this key.

Discuss the answers and any differences in ideas with your friends and the instructor.

Be sure to look at the three news stories on page 4 of this document.

Your ideas are important and can help improve this exercise for other people. Therefore, please don't mark additional answers or change the answers you marked on your answer sheet. Your answers will be studied along with other people's answers to make this exercise better.

#### Question A

- A 1. Bill wants to keep an eye on Tony and not leave him home alone where the boy might get into trouble.
- A 2. Bill says he learned a lot by riding along with his dad. Tony likes to ride with his daddy and learn how to mow the pasture.
- A 3. Tony loves to ride on the tractor and be with his daddy.
- A 4. Bill started riding on tractors with his dad and granddad when he was three years old. Just like Tony, he loved to ride along.
- D 5. Newspaper stories about child second riders being run over and killed are commonplace and Bill must know about these stories.
- A 6. Tony started riding with his Daddy when he was four. He runs to the tractor and gets a ride every time he can.
- A 7. Bill thinks he can be careful and protect Tony. He overestimates Tony's ability to take care of himself and his own ability to keep Tony from being hurt when the boy is riding on the tractor.
- A 8. If Bill really knew the danger, he wouldn't allow Tony to ride. If Tony realized the danger, he wouldn't be so eager to ride.
- A 9. Being together -- sharing, teaching, and learning -- is quality time and helps build a special bond between father and son.
- D 10. Bill loves Tony and wants him to grow up to be a farmer. He also thinks Tony is smart and strong and can hang on and be safe.

Question B

- A 11. Biting flies are common this time of year. Reaching and slapping at a fly would make it easy to fall from the tractor.
- A 12. A good jolt could throw Tony off even if he held on tight.
- A 13. The early hour, the noise of the tractor, and warm weather can easily lull a person to sleep for a moment.
- D 14. Nearly impossible. Many other hazards are much more likely. However, a snake could startle Tony and he could fall off.
- A 15. Ducking under or being struck by a branch could unseat Tony.
- A 16. Even one severe sunburn increases by many times the risk of skin cancer years later.
- A 17. Allergies and respiratory illness are common from breathing dust like that kicked up by bushhogging a pasture.
- A 18. The bushhog and the tractor engine are very loud. Without hearing protection, the noise will cause cumulative hearing loss.
- A 19. Bushhogs often throw rocks with great force. These objects can bounce off a tree or fence post and fly back toward the tractor.
- A 20. It is easy to be distracted by animals running from or being struck by the tractor and bushhog.
- A 21. Tractor overturns occur more often when bushhogging than nearly any other chore. Without a ROPS and fastened seat belt the tractor operator can be crushed and killed. However, a ROPS and seat belt protect only the operator, not a second rider!

Question C

- D 22. Bill can't react this fast. Tony is going down.
- D 23. Won't help! The tractor will still move ahead a few feet and the bushhog is running.
- D 24. Too little time! Even with the PTO disengaged, the bushhog knives will continue to rotate for a minute or two.
- A 25. Sad, but true! It's too late now. All the things that could have prevented this terrible event had to be done before this event occurred.

Question D

- D 26. Risky! Many child second riders have been killed while the tractor was being driven only a short distance on flat open land.
- D 27. Even 12-year-olds and adults can be thrown or fall from a tractor fender and be hurt or killed.
- D 28. Many children have fallen from the laps of their fathers, grandfathers, or other relatives and instantly been crushed under the rear wheels of the tractor or by trailing equipment.
- A 29. Correct! Never allowing second riders is the only sure way to prevent deaths like the one in this story. Tractors are designed for only one person, the operator.

Question E

- A 30. Climbing on and falling from parked tractors has injured many children. Read the first story presented below.
- A 31. Read the first story presented below.
- A 32. Turn the page and read the second story about how a mother, father, and infant were killed by a tractor. The event occurred in western Kentucky about 15 years ago. Read the third story about a close call that took place in May 1997 in central Kentucky.
- A 33. Young children in the habit of riding will often run right up to the tractor either in front of or behind the rear wheels as they attempt to get the tractor driver's attention and beg to get up onto the tractor. This is a very dangerous situation when operators are starting tractors and backing or pulling equipment into or out of sheds and barns. The operator can't hear the child's shouts for a ride because he or she is watching the equipment to see that it clears the shed or the barn. A child can be run over or crushed between the tractor or machinery and the building without the operator even knowing when or how this happened.

The three stories that follow illustrate the dangers when children ride or play on tractors. All of the stories are true.

**Boy, 1, dies in fall from tractor**

Two brothers, one age 5 and the other age 1 year, climbed on a parked tractor. The engine was not running. One of the boys knocked the tractor out of gear. It rolled down a hill and struck a plow. The 1-year-old was thrown from the tractor, struck his head against the plow, and died. The boys' mother was injured when she tried to stop the run-away tractor. (*Lexington Herald Leader* (KY), June 19, 1997)

Both of the following events occurred in Kentucky. The first event occurred about 15 years ago in Western Kentucky, the second in May of 1997 in Central Kentucky.

**Mother, father, and 1-year-old killed**

A farmer left his 4-year-old son in the cab of a tractor that was hitched to a large disc harrow. The tractor was out of gear and running. The father got out of the cab and went behind the tractor to adjust the harrows. His wife and a 1-year-old child were watching nearby. Somehow the tractor jumped into gear. The farmer was run over. While attempting to help her husband, the mother and 1-year-old child were run over by the disc harrow and cut to pieces. Only the 4-year-old survived. Neighbors found the child unharmed in the cab after the tractor ran into a ditch and stalled.

**A farm family's close call**

Unnoticed by his parents, a 5-year-old Kentucky child climbed onto a tractor parked in the shade of a tree on a hill above a tobacco patch. His mom and dad and a younger brother and older sister were in the tobacco patch resetting a few plants by hand. The father saw his son on the tractor and yelled to him, "Get off the tractor and get back here." Twenty minutes later, after the boy had returned to the tobacco patch, the father spotted the tractor rolling backward down the hill toward him and his family. The father yelled to alert everyone. Fortunately the tractor turned and ran off to the side of the tobacco field and came to a stop in a gully. Apparently the boy had released the brake and shifted the tractor out of gear. The father said, "It was a close call! We were scattered all over the tobacco patch. We didn't know where the tractor would go, or where we should run to get out of the way."

Do you know of cases and close calls like these?